

SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

*c/o California Department of Water Resources
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SRCA NOTES

April, 2001

March 22 TAC Meeting

Chairman Dan Keppen opened the meeting with self-introductions and public comment. Meeting dates were announced (see back) and it was noted that Jason Larrabee, SRCA Board member, has accepted a position in Congressman Doug Ose's office in Washington, D.C. Burt Bundy, SRCA Manager, reported on the 2/27 meeting held in Hamilton City that gave everyone an opportunity to come back together and discuss progress to date by the various entities. He also discussed a meeting with landowners concerning the Moulton Weir Project. He pointed out that this was a good example of the site-specific planning process. The contracting process is moving along for the Stillwater Science study being done for the M&T/Llano Seco concerning the gravel bar intrusion at the pumping plant site. Ernie Ohlin, Tehama County Flood Control, informed the committee that a representative from Congressman Ose's office had contacted him requesting a meeting to discuss possible appropriations for Woodson Bridge, a project that still needs a funding source.

Kelly Williams, Bureau of Land Management, gave an overview of the acquisition and management of BLM lands from Balls Ferry Bridge to Red Bluff. Bruce Ross, DWR, followed with a discussion of a geologic study being done on the Sacramento River from the mouth of Cow Creek to the Jellys Ferry Bridge which will help BLM in its land management decisions.

A committee was formed to look at the proposed modifications to language in the Handbook regarding bank stabilization and the impact on riparian habitat. Prior discussions on this subject will be reviewed and made available to this new committee.

Stacy Cepello, DWR, discussed the proposed language for the Inner River Zone in Reach 1. Burt read the Reach 4 definition and some additional questions were raised. It was determined the staff will come back to the next TAC meeting with draft language on all three reaches. The process would be for the definitions to go to the TAC for approval, then to the Board, then to the public for input.

March 29 SRCA Board Meeting

The meeting opened with a request by a local landowner for data showing the ownership of land by agencies on each side of the River. It was noted that this is in the process of being done and they will try to have a draft available at the next meeting.

Chairman Bungarz asked for representatives to complete the Executive Committee: Brendon Flynn (Landowner group), Glenn Hawes (Public interest group), and Diana Jacobs (Ex-officio group) were selected to represent the respective groups on the Committee.

Discussion opened on the County review process. Ben Carter presented an amendment to the original draft language. After the comment period a roll call vote was taken. The motion to accept the county veto proposal as amended passed by a vote of ten to two. Burt Bundy gave the Manager's report with an overview of progress on sub-reach planning and site-specific projects. He also discussed several "Issues to be resolved". Most had been assigned to the TAC or special Board committee but a few new issues were also included. In summary, Burt noted the status as follows: The Handbook Amendment Process, the County Review Process, and the Hard Point language issues have been completed. Still developing are the IRZ definitions, impact of riprap, economic analysis, and the Conservation Area definition. The "Safe Harbor", "Good Neighbor Policy", streamlining the permit process, and PILT issues will be ongoing. The Manager asked the Board for direction on the grievance procedure, public access, and mitigation fund issues. Dan Keppen discussed the March 22 TAC meeting. Dan suggested that the information portions of the TAC be limited and possibly the length of the meetings should be extended. Chairman Bungarz asked for volunteers to serve on a Public Outreach Committee. Ramon Vega updated the group on F&WS activities and Sam Lawson from The Nature Conservancy gave an overview of the status of some of their acquisitions. Sue Fry, COE, gave a presentation on the status of the Comprehensive Study and then answered questions from the Board and audience.

SRCA NOTES UPDATE

The SRCA is coordinating a meeting in Hamilton City on April 16th at 9:30 a.m. at the Hamilton City Fire Hall to continue updating all interested stakeholders on progress by the COE, Glenn County, The Reclamation Board and others.

A date of May 14th has been tentatively set for a meeting in the Red Bluff or Anderson Area for public input on the Inner River Zone definition in Reach 1.

The SRCA was selected as the winner of the first Riparian Habitat Joint Venture **Innovation to Action Award** at the 2001 Riparian Habitat and Floodplains Conference in part for its efforts in improving and facilitating coordination and public discussion about river and riparian habitat management issues.

SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA BOARD/TAC MEETINGS

The next Board meeting is scheduled for **April 26th** at the Willows City Hall, Willows, at 4:00 p.m.

The following month is scheduled for **May 24th** at the Willows City Hall, Willows, at 4:00 p.m.

The next TAC meeting will be on **April 19th** at the Willows City Hall, Willows, at **9:30 a.m.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. If I own land in the Conservation Area, how does the Sacramento River Conservation Area program affect the use of my land?

A. Because the SRCA is not a governmental agency, and has no regulatory powers, the programs and actions that may be available to you are voluntary. The designation of a Conservation Area just recognizes that natural activities within the river corridor impact what is going on nearby (flooding, seepage, human & wildlife use)---and, that activities nearby may affect the ecological processes occurring within the river corridor (urban development, flood control & land leveling). The Inner River Zone (IRZ) is a narrow corridor within the Conservation Area where active river meander and frequent flooding occur. This limited river meander area is recognized as being important for many sensitive wildlife species and the habitat needed for their continued health.

The SRCA and its participating agencies and organizations use incentives to achieve conservation of riparian habitat, focusing on the Inner River Zone. Since landowners in the Inner River Zone are subject to frequent flooding, as well as erosion and/or sediment deposition, purchase of fee title or easement for habitat is a win-win situation, protecting fish and wildlife and allowing landowners to escape constantly battling the river. However, participation is only voluntary, you do not have to take advantage of opportunities to sell or any other incentive. For those who do participate, whether landowners, conservationists, Counties, State and Federal agencies, all have agreed to coordinate their activities with each other within set guidelines described in a Handbook. The Handbook also outlines a planning process that assures each nearby landowner, agency, and interested party a voice in the development of a project or activity that may be proposed within that river reach.

With the SRCA functioning as envisioned, the planning of activities along the river will include all those interested, and result in more acceptable projects that fit the needs for both economic and environmental growth and harmony. The use of your land will not be affected unless you want it to. Lastly, it is envisioned that the improved ability for threatened species to flourish may allow activities such as the construction and maintenance of flood control and irrigation facilities to proceed with streamlined permitting.



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